

Focus on AFSB-E

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We're in for the long haul...

"Don't let anyone tell you that events in Iraq and Afghanistan are unrelated to our security back home," said GEN John Abizaid, CENTCOM Commander, referring to the extremist element fighting against coalition forces in Iraq. "This is the same enemy that brought you 9/11, and now they're working day in and day out to acquire weapons of mass destruction," he said. "It's our job to be out here in the middle of these guys and stop them. We have to keep them fighting here, so they can't bring the fight to us."

"Servicemembers and DoD civilians should be prepared for a lengthy war against extremism," he said, "and that means our lives will not be as predictable as they were before the war."

"This is going to be a long war against a small group of people for a long time," he said. "As long as we're serving our nation, things will never go back to how it was before 9/11."

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From COL Lobeto, AFSB-E Commander

Expeditionary Ops: it's a reality

Just three months ago our Brigade was formed to carry out expeditionary logistics operations.

Today I'm writing you from Camp Anaconda at Balad Air Base, where our Brigade is commanding all AMC operations in Iraq.

We've gone from a ceremonial start to operational, expeditionary capability in combat zones in the blink of an eye. So it goes: We serve a nation and an Army at war.

For some of you, deployments are nothing new; for many others in our Brigade deploying is a whole new concept.

What's new for all of us is deploying as a unit, organized to match the modular, expeditionary combat formations. *The future is here, folks, and we're living it.* We have an operations command post in Iraq, backed up by everyone in Europe. In Afghanistan, the commander and staff members from FSB-Hythe are heavily engaged in directing AMC operations

from the ground up. People from all over the Brigade are on the move.

All this is happening fast, because defeating the enemy is an urgent and serious task. We have to adjust our clocks: *a day in the U.S. is a minute in Europe is a second in the combat zones of Iraq and Afghanistan.* The volume and velocity of our missions has increased off the scale compared to the Cold War activities most of us experienced.

The key to our success will be adapting our skills to new circumstances; that's flexibility. *What* we do is not new – where and when are the wildcards. We're all professionals, trained and experienced in our specialties, ready and eager to support Soldiers, so we will meet the challenges.

We're on the front lines, whether in Iraq or Luxembourg. I reach back to the rest of the Brigade every day for expertise and equipment. We are a work in pro-

gress, the first brigade of its type – and the Army is counting on us to deliver. AMC is watching and learning from us, using our experiences and successes to form other Field Support Brigades in the U.S. and overseas.

This is hard, sometimes dangerous, work. It's what we signed up to do – Soldiers and civilians alike. Transformation is not a concept on a PowerPoint slide for us – we're living it. And doing a great job.

The thing that binds us together, brings life to the Brigade, is our sense of purpose. We have a mission. So no matter where you are in our widespread and diverse group, you can say, "I'm supporting Soldiers on the battlefield." That's an awesome responsibility.

As time goes on, I'll be sharing more of what's going on and how we're doing. *For now, thanks for all you do; we're making a positive contribution where it counts the most.*

From the Top: Where the Army's heading

Relevant and Ready Landpower

Providing relevant and ready landpower to support the combatant commander is the first overarching strategy of the Army Posture Statement.

In order to support this strategy, the Army must build a **campaign-quality force, become more expeditionary and continue to anticipate the commander's needs.**

To accomplish this, the Army will:

- **Enhance joint interdependence** by ensuring capabilities and training requirements are created joint from the outset.
- **Reset the force** by preparing Soldiers and their equipment for future missions.
- **Convert to a brigade-based modular force** so the Army can be more rapidly deployable and strategically responsive.
- **Rebalance active and reserve components units and skills** to optimize rapid deployment and sustainment.
- **Stabilize Soldiers and units to enhance cohesion and predictability** by keeping Soldiers in units longer, thus reducing turbulence and uncertainty in both the Soldier's unit and family.
- **Leverage Army science and technology programs** in order to field capabilities into the Current Force faster.
- **Spiral Future Combat Systems capabilities into the Current Force** which will provide unprecedented levels of situational awareness.
- **Restructure Army aviation** by developing modular, capabilities-based forces optimized to operate in a joint environment.

Note to AFSB-E: Sound familiar? Several of these points have become part of our daily routine... This helps put our transformation into the bigger Army picture...



March Birthdays

Vincenzo Basile	FSB-LI	1 March	Maria Pia D'Amore	FSB-LI	14 March
Roberto Rombi	FSB-LI	1 March	Carmensita Caroccia	FSB-LI	18 March
Christa Lewis	AFSB-E RM	2 March	Frans Handels	AFSB-E Safety	18 March
James Lanier	CECOM	3 March	Herbert Hughes	FSB-EY	18 March
Marti Raniero	FSB-LI	3 March	James Roberts	FSB-EY	18 March
Maurizio Frascarelli	FSB-LI	4 March	Christopher Gill	FSB-HY	19 March
Ernest Ugwuegbulam	AFSB-E RM	4 March	Massimo Caminarecci	FSB-LI	23 March
Roberta Giuliani	FSB-LI	6 March	Andrea Colombi	FSB-LI	23 March
Ernest Moore	FSB-EY	6 March	Roberto Vazzoloretto	FSB-LI	23 March
Peter Silvertand	FSB-EY	6 March	Gianna Minelli	FSB-LI	24 March
Andrew Fontaness	FSB-LU	7 March	Michela Volpi	FSB-LI	24 March
Irene Koelsch	AFSB-E RM	7 March	SSG Lawrence Massey	FSB-LI	25 March
Martina Fioretti	FSB-LI	8 March	David Taylor	FSB-HY	25 March
SFC DelJuan Hollingshead	FSB-LI	10 March	Egon Klein	FSB-LU	26 March
Andrea Marchi	FSB-LI	10 March	Vincent Larson	AFSB-E Plans & Ops	26 March
Nicholas Mikus	Field Services	10 March	Gabriella Malfitano	FSB-LI	26 March
Aubrey Bell	FSB-EY	11 March	Thomas Weissenberger	LAO 7 th ATC	26 March
Renzo Spinalli	FSB-LI	11 March	Dallas Jamison	CECOM	27 March
SFC Albert Fernandez	FSB-LI	12 March	Franco Montagnani	FSB-LI	27 March
Carl Filmore	FSB-HY	12 March	Fabio Nelli	FSB-LI	30 March
Margarete Sheerer	LAO 21 st TAACOM	12 March	Roberto Quercioli	FSB-LI	30 March
LTC Martin Binder	FSB-HY	14 March			



Materiel Fielding and Staging delivers the goods

GERMERSHEIM, Germany – USAREUR Soldiers scheduled to deploy to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom are being issued the latest in field gear here through the Rapid Fielding Initiative.

The RFI is run by the Program Executive Office – Soldier and the Army Materiel Command Field Support Brigade – Europe.

Together they serve as the “readiness bridge” linking America’s Arsenal to USAREUR’s Soldiers.



Photos by C.W. Fick, Jr.

To date 3,700 Soldiers from USAREUR units have received the latest in field gear: the Advanced Combat Helmet, improved desert boots, moisture wicking undergarments, knee and elbow pads, weapons, and add-ons such as close combat optics.

The Army Chief of Staff initiative identifies equipment deploying Soldiers especially need and consists of equipment specifically to enhance the individual Soldier’s mobility, lethality, level of force protection, provide mission essential equipment and individual weap-

ons’ optics.

The fit and feel of the Advanced Combat Helmet drew rave reviews from Cpl. Sergei Batyrshin, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 44th Signal Battalion. “I love it!” he exclaimed. “It is more comfortable, more stable, lighter and the chin strap is the bomb.”

According to Capt. Hannah Lungren, who recently returned from Iraq, the bottom line is safety. “It’s designed so it can withstand more.

The first time we deployed it was last minute.

We went out the door with two sets of Desert Combat Uniforms and a field jacket, so I think it’s good because the Soldiers will be more prepared.”

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Ray, Company B, 44th Signal Battalion started his Army career with a steel pot. Despite not

being able to shave in this helmet, he would not trade back. “I love this, it is far superior to the old K-pot,” he said hefting the helmet. “This may be a little lighter too.”

Equipment that is lighter moves faster. The new gear was out the door of the warehouse on this southwestern German depot almost as soon as it arrived.

According to Gary R. James, site manager of AMC FSB-Europe’s GERMERSHEIM Staging Activity, the majority of the equipment arrived just after Christmas, and by



Jan. 5 had started moving into Soldiers’ hands.

The quickness was appreciated by Soldiers whose lives may depend on having the best gear available.

“Finally we’re getting some good gear,” said Lungren.

PEO Soldier’s mission is to develop, produce, field, and sustain everything the Soldier wears, carries, and operates, today, throughout the Army’s transformation to the Objective Force, and beyond. PEO Soldier provides the latest in cutting edge equipment that allows Soldiers to dominate the battlefield by improving combat effectiveness and improving their quality of life, ultimately saving lives.

By linking PEO Soldier’s products and the rest of the Army arsenal to troops en route to the battlefield, AMC Field Support Brigade – Europe is providing the essential readiness bridgehead vital to expeditionary operations.



Thanks to Art McQueen, USAREUR PAO, for his report

People in the News...

To contribute to this newsletter, just
call or drop me a line...

Regards,
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We're on the Web:
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LTC Thomas D. McCarthy received the Bronze Star Medal for his service in Iraq from COL Max Lobeto during an 8 Feb. ceremony at Camp Anaconda. LTC McCarthy, the 1st ID Logistics Assistance Officer (LAO), also received an AMC/Operation Iraqi Freedom Certificate of Appreciation.

Deployed to Afghanistan, FSB-Hythe Soldiers renew acquaintances with Korean friends...



Left to Right: CW3 Cassandra B. Young, Stuart L. Sumner, LTC Martin G. Binder, LTC T.C. Yun, MAJ Tony W. Warren, CSM C.K. Pak, pictured at Korean Dining facility, Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

It's a small world isn't it? Availing himself of an opportunity to practice his Korean language skills, Stuart Sumner, Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan contracting officer, recently struck up a conversation with Korean military personnel at the Bagram, Afghanistan, AAFES pizza outlet. The chance encounter ended with an invitation from the Korean Hospital detachment commander to lunch at their dining facility. When LTC Martin G. Binder, FSB-AF Commander; MAJ Tony W. Warren, XO and CW3 Cassandra B. Young, S4, joined the group, Warren and Young discovered common bonds with their hosts. Warren and CSM C. K. Pak immediately recognized each other from service with the 2nd Infantry Division in the mid-nineties. Young also recalled names of mutual acquaintances from her service at Camp Hovey. All in all, the lunch was a pleasant break from the usual routine, and a welcome chance to eat good Korean food in good company. And though thousands of miles and many years apart, the solid friendships forged in Korea remain fresh. One Team - One Fight! (Story & Photo from Alex Blincow deployed to FSB Afghanistan)



Work on new maintenance facilities continues at a furious pace at FSB-Afghanistan. FSB-AF will be providing DS maintenance to combat units.

Staff at Logistics Support Element (LSE) - Tikrit, Iraq, greet COL Max Lobeto, AFSB-E commander, during his 26 Feb. visit to the site.

